



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re the Application of: **KIKUGAWA, Atsushi et al.**

Group Art Unit: 1742

Serial No.: **09/924,476**

Examiner: **Andrew L. Ottmans**

Filed: **August 9, 2001**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 2643

**FOR: RARE EARTH METAL-BASED PERMANENT MAGNET HAVING  
CORROSION-RESISTANT FILM AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE SAME**

**Do Not Use IDS      INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(c)**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

December 23, 2002

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached along with a European Search Report and Annex to the European Search Report.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after issuance of a first official action on the merits and expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry in the national stage for the above-captioned application, but prior to issuance of either a final official action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

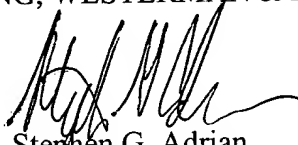
The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no information contained in this statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP

  
Stephen G. Adrian  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 32,878

SGA/arf

Atty. Docket No. **010983**



Suite 1000, 1725 K Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20006

(202) 659-2930

**23850**

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Enclosures: PTO-1449; European Search Report and references (2)